

Country Day Montessori PTO  
Minutes  
May 5, 2009

Meeting Called to order at 6:45 pm by President Carra Milikien.

The minutes of the March meeting were read by Tricia Love. Those in attendance indicated no additions or corrections were needed.

The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Valanna Bulner. She began with a thank you to all who had helped with our recent activities. She then discussed the money we had raised at the recent fundraisers. Our food sales at the school fiesta brought in \$ 898.75. Our costs were \$388, thereby giving us a profit of \$509. As decided at the March meeting 20% of the profits will go toward the music (\$101) instruments and 10% toward the playground (\$51). The school rummage sale brought in \$960.10. This earned \$196 for the music instruments and \$ 96 for the playground. These two fundraisers bring the total earned for the music instruments to \$ 695. The total requested for music instruments is approximately \$ 2540. The current PTO balance (not including money designated for instruments or playground equipment) is \$3,582.74.

Next, Carra expressed her gratitude to all who have helped make the PTO activities and the PTO itself a success. Carra then announced that she would be stepping down as President of the PTO and according to the by-laws the vice-president, Rose Saenz, will become President. At the next meeting a new Vice-president will be elected. The floor was opened for nominations for vice-president. Rose Saenz nominated Joan Martinez and Gigi Garcia. The nominations were seconded and a vote will take place at the September meeting.

The current teacher requests were discussed. We have \$695 saved for the instruments and can give Ms. Cynthia this money to spend immediately or save until we have the total requested. PTO member Mike Hudson inquired about the PTO policy of how much money we need going into the next school year. The standing rules indicate that "The PTO shall try to maintain a minimum balance of \$500 going into each new school year." The current balance of \$3,582.74 exceeds this minimum. Mike made a motion to give Ms. Cynthia the total amount that she has requested with the stipulation that any money saved will be returned to the PTO to fund other projects. The motion was seconded and passed by a unanimous vote. The Playground equipment is still a project in progress. A more detailed request is expected by the next PTO meeting.

Ms. Betty was the guest speaker for the evening. She began by thanking the PTO for the teacher appreciation day. She explained how it touched all the staff and shared some of the student notes of appreciation with the PTO. Next, she gave an update on the Swine Flu and how the Country Day school and other schools in the area are handling the situation. Thankfully it has not affected the Country Day School and it seems to be dying down. Next, Ms. Betty talked about how our students are doing academically. Specifically she discussed the IOWA tests that the second through sixth graders take. She passed out a chart of the test results that show that our school tested better than 98 % of schools taking this test in the second grade; better than 94% in the third grade; better than 98% in the fourth grade; better than 99% in the fifth grade and better than 98% in the sixth grade. These results are very typical for the Country Day School. The results also show that the longer students stay

at the Country Day School the better they do on the exam. The scores also show that our students don't do as well in the math as they do in other subjects. This is likely due to the fact that our students don't typically do math under timed conditions.

The issue of school accreditation was discussed. The process of accreditation has been going on for the past two years. It involves a self study of multiple questions about the school. As the staff began answering the questions they also started working on things that needed improving which has led to the lengthy time for the accreditation process. The accreditation is being done by the Southern association of colleges and schools (advanced). The accreditation committee will be here in September to go over the process. There will also be an opportunity for the parents to speak with the committee and give their thoughts.

Finally, Ms. Betty shared two articles with those in attendance. They were about Kindergarten cram and the need for play. She assured the PTO that there will always be recess and a time for play at the Country Day School. Also, music and art will always have a place in the school's curriculum.

Ms. Betty informed us of the possibility of establishing an international classroom with AT&T. The need for newer computers and web cams was discussed.

PTO member, Earline Long, discussed the idea of a voluntary parent directory. This would be a way for parents and students to get in contact with one another. Earline will work on a form that can be distributed at opening day rehearsals.

The non-profit status of the PTO was discussed. In order for donations to the PTO to be tax deductible, we have to file for federal tax exempt status ( 501 (c ) (3) ) . Mike Hudson volunteered to help Valanna with this process.

Rose handed out a PTO Questionnaire to help us steer the organization in the right direction.

Finally we all thanked Carra Milikien for all her hard work in starting the PTO and in being the president for this past year.

The next meeting has not been scheduled but will take place in September. The meeting will be announced at Opening day rehearsals.

The meeting was concluded at 8:10pm.